

**Board of Trustees
Suffolk County Department of Parks
Recreation and Conservation
Minutes of May 18, 2006
at Indian Island County Park, Riverhead**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ray Corwin Chairman, Member at Large
Richard F. White, Jr. Trustee, Town of East Hampton
John Fritz Trustee, Town of Babylon
Miles Borden Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Gregory Dawson Trustee, Town of Islip
Gary Olsen Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Alexander McKay Trustee, Town of Huntington
Gil Cardillo Trustee, Town of Riverhead

ABSENT: Aurelio Colina Vice Chairman, Town of Southampton
Jeanine Dillon Member of the Board
Terrence Pearsall Member of the Board
Vacant Trustee, Town of Southold
Vacant Trustee, Town of Shelter Island

PARKS DEPARTMENT:

Ronald F. Foley Commissioner
Tracey Belone Deputy Commissioner
Colleen Hofmeister Contracts Manager
Nick Gibbons Senior Environmental Analyst
Nick Gibbons Sr. Environmental Analyst
Silliam Sickles Sr. Superintendent of Parks.
Stacey A. Kowalski Secretary to the Commissioner

GUESTS:

Jennifer Kohn Assisstant County Attorney
Janet Longo Assistant Director of Planning
Lauretta Fischer Princ. Env. Analyst, Planning Dept.

CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF APRIL 20, 2006:

Page 10 – Under Old Business/New Business -- Add Legislator Horsley submitted a resolution for \$250,000 for fishing pier.

Page 7 - Under Mud Creek Watershed -- Change Twelve lots of 2.7 acres owned by three different owners, Richards, Howard, Jerome to Twelve lots of 2.7 acres owned by three different owners, Richard, Howard and Jerome Norton.

Page 7 – Under Mud Creek Watershed – Change Multifaceted Open Space Acquisition Program to Multifaceted Land Preservation Program - Open Space Preservation Program

Page 9 - Under Old Business/New Business change "he" to Trustee Fritz.

A motion to accept minutes as corrected by Chairman Corwin, seconded by Trustee Fritz and motion passed 8-0-0.

PLANNING AND REAL ESTATE:

Lauretta Fischer presented the following acquisitions:

Emerald Estates – There are four separate acquisitions that we are proposing for this area which are outlined in green (referring to a handout). The area outlined in the pinkish color are in negotiation. This acquisition is in Huntington. The properties outlined in green are the properties that we are proposing for acquisition to the Trustees. We are looking to acquire them under the Multi-Faceted Land Preservation Program for Open Space Preservation Passive Recreation. We are in the process of trying to acquire all the parcels in this area. The use will be passive recreation and the Town is in the process of considering partnering in the purchase. The County is in negotiations with the Town. The County is definitely buying whether the Town will be a partner is questionable. Trustee McKay stated what he is voting on is the County's participation not the Towns. To Trustee McKay's knowledge, the Town has not committed to participate in this purchase. Trustee McKay does not want to be in a position where he is speaking for the Town but certainly does not object to the County purchasing it.

Commissioner Foley stated shouldn't the question for the Trustees be is this a valid acquisition for the County regardless of what the Town does? It would be nice to have them as a partner but if they opt not to, does the acquisition warrant approval based on its own merits?

Chairman Corwin asked Ms. Fischer is there a danger that we are going to end up with a hodgepodge of some lots and therefore some sort of management problem for Parks? Ms. Fischer said absolutely not, they are in contract for each of the parcels.

Trustee McKay moved that we approve the acquisition property with possible town participation to be determined. It was seconded by Trustee Cardillo and passed by a vote of 8-0-0 . No further discussion.

Fresh Pond- The acquisition in question is at the border between Town of Huntington and Town of Smithtown. This has been an area where we have acquired some properties. It was originally on our 1986 Open Space Preservation Program report. We have been trying over the years to acquire these wetland and open water areas of Fresh Pond. This piece is in the Town of Smithtown – green one outlined on the very bottom (referring to the handout). It is two acres in size. We are also buying another piece just south of here on the Town of Huntington side under the SOS Program. We are buying this one under the Old Drinking Water 125E Program which you are required to review and approve. The parcels to the north colored in green are already acquired. We are taking two acres out of the 3.2 acre site. The stream corridor is actually on the western side of the property, it flows down through the western side, there are also some wetlands to the north that is associated with the County owned property. Motion by Trustee Borden to approve the acquisition seconded by Trustee Cardillo and passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0-0.

Santapogue Creek- This is 1.3 acre site in the Town of Babylon. The Santapogue Creek flows actually into it and actually to the south of it. There is a portion of it that flows along the southern boundary of this 1.3 acre lot. We are acquiring this under the Old Drinking Water 125E program. This is part of an area that the County has been trying to acquire for a number of years. We put in these lots specifically two years ago under the Master List to ask again of these owners whether they would be interested in selling. We probably own maybe about 20 acres in this area. This does flow into the Great South Bay and the County wants to continue to acquire parcels in this important area. This goes up north of Sunrise Highway, almost north of Southern State Parkway as well. It is quite a long wetland stream corridor watershed area. Trustee Corwin

asked is it walkable, is one able to navigate? Ms. Fischer stated one could walk onto this site because there is an open area on it, however, there is no trail going from one end to the other. The County's interest is more to preserve the stream corridor environment than provide recreation. Trustee Cardillo asked what Township is this? Ms. Fischer replied the Town of Babylon. Trustee Corwin asked what Program is this? Ms. Fischer replied this is under the Old Drinking Water 125E program.

A motion to approve the acquisition was made by Trustee Fritz, seconded by Trustee White. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0-0.

Great Pond Area - Town of Southold - This is in the Town of Southold, east of Peconic Dunes. We have an easement outlined on the bottom of the map (referring to the handout). We are acquiring this under the Multi-Faceted Land Preservation Program. This parcel is 1.2 acres and adjacent to Peconic Dunes County Park. A motion to approve the acquisition was made by Trustee Cardillo seconded by Trustee White. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0-0.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Trap & Skeet - We are moving toward re-opening the facility in early July. The trucks are hauling out the accumulated debris to the Brookhaven Landfill with approval of DEC. The building is being rewired which is the next to last step to make it usable. Although there may be an issue with the Pine Barren's Commission, in the county's opinion, the Pine Barrens Commission doesn't have jurisdiction. Many people disagree with us on that. We are moving forward.

Bradstock - Bradstock which was an issue many of you have heard about is an event that happens later on this year at the Long Island Maritime Museum. We have worked with the group that sponsors it to get them to change the entry fee to a donation which is more appropriate for public park land. They have committed to establishing a 501 (c)(3) organization under the umbrella that this thing will occur. The Legislature is putting forward a resolution authorizing them to use that part of the park for the fundraiser. We are still working with them to get better control of the alcohol - the way they dispense it. The event will be the Sunday of Labor Day weekend.

Town of Huntington - We met with Supervisor Petrone and Parks Commissioner McKay of Huntington about Huntington's commitment to put \$600,000 of their money towards the restoration of the Coindre Hall Boathouse. Our goal still is to restore that Historic building. The associated outcome of that may be Sagamore Rowing Club has a better home there then they do now. The Town is in this because they had a proposal to build a new boathouse for a rowing club on the adjacent Gold Star Battalion Beach. That created citizen uproar. At that time, we talked with the Town about working together to restore Coindre Hall Boathouse.

Town of Huntington – Dog Runs - There has been talk lately about a fenced in dog run. Dog owners want a place where they can come with their dogs and let the dog run loose off the leash and socialize with the other dogs. We have this issue at Coindre Hall on the 33 acres where people have taken over the park with unleashed dogs. We have asked Park Police to keep an eye on the facility and have written summonses there for unleashed dogs. There is a very small fenced in dog run authorized by the Legislature at West Hills County Park. The dog owners contend that it is too small. It is on a slope with no grass on a ¼ acre. They have requested that we make the West Hills dog run larger. We have looked at what is an undefined activity field on another portion of West Hills County Park. The area in question is roughly two acres that could be fenced off for this purpose. The area would be divided for large and small dogs. The Commissioner feels we should divide it again and give one side a rest so some grass could grow back. It is a field that is near the picnic area, where park users have pickup ballgames and things like that. Our

proposal is to eliminate the small dog run and create this new dog run at West Hills next to the Parking lot. We would run water out there so that the animals could have water and work with the dog run community to draft a stewardship agreement.

Trustee McKay states this is a new phenomenon with the dog runs. Trustee McKay thinks we are going to get pressure to have them in other locations in parts of the County. There is a question of precedent that we would be setting for dog owners. Dog owners want their dogs to socialize with other dogs in a closed space.

Commissioner Foley states there is a definite benefit to the dog owner. It is a social outlet for them. They get some piece of mind and outdoor experience out of it.

Trustee Dawson asked about self policing. Commissioner Foley says they do, however, we have also gotten some complaints from people who had a dog there and two other dogs' owners got into a fight because their dogs got into a fight.

Chairman Corwin states unless there is a strong sense from the Board that this specific area that the Commissioner and staff are working on needs to come to this Board, I don't see anything in this that automatically triggers some sort of change of use review by the Trustees. It may be a growing issue that we are going to see more of, but the current state, I think it is something the staff can manage.

Trustee McKay asked if the dog owners need to get a permit to bring their dogs to a dog run. Commissioner Foley states that it is an issue that hasn't been resolved. Commissioner Foley thinks it is reasonable to expect people to have a licensed vaccinated animal. In doing this, we will have to adapt a set of rules and regulations and reasonable practices that have to be adhered to.

Commissioner Foley said the dog run at Blydenburgh County Park is a different story because there is a Master Plan for that park. Once we have a plan in place, we would have to come to the Trustees and the Legislature for approval.

Third House – Commissioner Foley reported that the restoration of Third House has begun. We are very close to having a contract between the Suffolk County Parks Department and the Montauk Fire Department regarding the installation of the cell tower at the GATR site.

Indian Island - Last month, there was some discussion about some trimming that was done at Indian Island on the 11th hole of the golf course. Commissioner Foley along with Will Maxwell and Mike Rothang investigated the situation to determine what had occurred. Any time you have a golf course with mature trees on it, you have a constant battle between getting air to pass over a green or maintaining the picturesqueness of our mature trees. They had a situation out there that there wasn't enough air circulation. They did trim out the underbrush and open it up so that air will travel through. I think in terms of golf course management, they made the right decision.

Southaven Stables – We finally received the consultant's report including the structural assessment of the facility. The report concluded that the building can be improved and reused if we invest about 1.4 million dollars. It was decided we would issue a request for expressions of interest. We will insist on trail rides, lessons, etc. The private sector will tell us what it is worth, how much money they are willing to put in along with the County's investment. The County has appropriations of \$450,000 on the books now. Let's see what kind of private resources we can get to put the Stables back in operation.

Commissioner Foley stated we also have to keep in mind there is some value of public service by

providing these equestrian activity opportunities. Trustee Cardillo states that running a facility like that is a huge drain. Horses eat whether it rains or not. People don't come horseback riding if it is raining. Trustee Cardillo knows people who send their horses to Amish country for the winter because it is cheaper to ship them down there than to pay the boarding fee on Long Island. It is extremely expensive. It is not a real money maker. Trustee Cardillo doesn't know if horse stables generate enough revenue to warrant the million dollar initial investment. If you could have some nice shows, like the Hampton Classic, Northville Classic, it may work, however, it is a hit or miss thing.

Maritime Museum - West Sayville – The bulkhead along the boat basin there finally gave out which caused the boardwalk to collapse. Bill Sickles is working with DPW to come up with an emergency repair to stabilize that. We would have to do the boardwalk reconstruction. One of our 2007 budget requests is to do the permanent repair of the boardwalk.

Outer Beach - Smith Point – Bill Sickles said that the erosion is no better at the facility. In fact, he believes we lost some beach elevation. There has been a tremendous amount of erosion there. The beach has been limited in terms of access with the erosion, the piping plovers are setting up where they want to set up so we will have to continue to monitor it.

Cupsogue Beach – Bill Sickles reported that there was severe erosion as well. It is less there in the lifeguard protected area but it gets worse as you go towards the Inlet. This does not effect the outer beach camping.

Shinnecock East is in the best shape. →→→103 outer beach campsites are in useable condition and the beach is in pretty good shape.

Shagwong – Right now the beach is starting to build up west of Shagwong Point. You go east to Shagwong toward Oyster Pines it is in bad shape, probably the worst it has ever been. It is actually eroding away the upland areas now. Right now there are 50 outer beach spots available. Probably by this weekend, we will be able to double that for Memorial Day weekend. That will probably be 85 short of what we would have if the beach was in the best shape. We usually get 185 campers.

Smith Point – Nick Gibbons – Presently, there are about eight pairs of piping plovers. By this time next month, we will probably have twenty pairs.

Canoe Concession RFP – Colleen Hofmeister distributed the RFP for canoe concessions. The Trustees were asked to review the RFP and we would answer any questions at the June meeting.

Skateboard Parks – Deputy Commissioner Bellone reported that they had their fourth meeting with the community and Legislator Browning. The community approved the design, however, Legislator Browning wants to look at alternative locations in Smith Point.

Reservation System – The reservation system is in the next to last phase with the last step being the St. James General Store.

Sunsmart – The Suffolk County Legislature passed a resolution for the Parks Department to post signs. Ten signs will be put up in the beach and golf areas at various facilities warning about the dangers of the sun. Initially, we will be posting the signs at the three beaches, four golf courses and Sears Bellows.

OBI – We reached out to the Town with regards to the fishing pier. The fishing pier is slated for Phase IIA, however, until that is complete, the town will work with all the different user groups

to find a way to allow fishing on the existing pier.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee White expressed his appreciation to the parks department for their work on Third House and their work on the cell tower application at the GATR site.

Trustee McKay wanted to congratulate Bill Sickles on being a recipient of a national lifetime award from the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials. Bill Sickles was not in attendance at the April Trustee meeting when Commissioner Foley made the announcement so the Trustees wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank Bill Sickles for all of his hard work for Suffolk County Parks.

Trustee Olsen said that as a result of the Ward Melville Heritages Trust presentation at the April Trustee meeting, he and Parks Sr. Environmental Analyst Nick Gibbons toured the property. The following issues were talked about at the last trustee meeting and the following is what was concluded during the inspection:

Erosion – the slope has been revegetated, with nearly 100% cover by both planted material and weed species.

Falling Trees – Trees have fallen but not as a result of the fence work.

Retaining Wall – they looked at both the old wall that has been there for 20 years as well as the new wall and both are similar in structure.

Buffer zone – based on aerials provided by Ward Melville consultant," it appears that the buffer zone is maintained.

Lighting – there is lighting in the parking lot below but it doesn't look like it is a problem however the Ward Melville Heritage Organization has committed to adhering to the Dark Sky Recommendations.

Invasive Species – Any invasive species on site are not the result of the fencing work.

Fence - is nearly complete in some areas, but absent in others. Nick suggests the fence be completed in the area that is immediately adjacent to the Ward Melville property, continue behind the private homes which front Hollow Road, and end at the point where Suffolk Parklands begin to front Hollow Road. Those areas not to be fenced, but where fencing activities began five years ago should be cleared of any hazards (post holes, discarded materials). Ward Melville Heritage has agreed to complete and maintain the fence, with consultation from Parks, at their own expense.

DATE AND LOCATION OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on June 15 at West Sayville Country Club at 1:00 pm. Lunch will be served at 12 noon.

The motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Fritz and seconded by Trustee White.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Stacey Kowalski.